THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. The major reasons for losses of IDPL are high wage component, low capacity utilisation, obsolescence in technology, high interest burden and fixed cost, non-availability of raw materials and the constraints of working capital etc.

(b) and (c) Besides Vitamins, the company manufacuters a number of vital bulk drugs like Pen. G First crystal, Streptomycin Sulphate, Tetracycline Hcl, Oxtetracycline Hcl, Ampicillin Trihydrate, Amoxycillin, Cephelaxin, Methyl Dopa etc. It is also engaged in the manufacture of a wide variety of formulations, Organic chemicals and Surgical instruments. A number of down stream units in the small scale as well as in the organised sector depend on the bulk drugs produced by IDPL. The role of the company in the pharmaceuticals sector is not insignificant.

(d) and (e) The company has been incurring losses for past several years. Over the years the working capital of the company has eroded severely and consequently the production is affected. As a result of fall in production the incidence of wage bill on the value of production has increased. It is, however, not a fact that the cost of production of IDPL is highest in the country. Package for improvement in the performance of the company would involve stepping up of capacity utilisation, emphasis on higher sales, exports, increase in efficiencies by savings on services & utilities, cost reduction, improvement in the system of collection of outstanding dues and voluntary retirement schemes etc. As per the amended Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, cases of sick industrial units in the public sector are to be referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for consideration of various options including revival, closure etc.

Decontrolled drugs under pricing regime

1126. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "28 Decontrolled Drugs may be brought under pricing regime" which appeared in the Economic Times of 3rd February, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what were the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the drugs; and

(d) on what consideration drugs required for the National Health Programme, like Malaria, Tuberculosis, leprosy etc. and a number of essential antibiotics required for mass consumption like Ampicilin Amoxycilin, Cephalexin, Cotrimoxazole, Erythromysin etc. were shifted to decontrolled category ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS and FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Sir, Government has seen the news item item captioned "28 Decontrolled Drugs may be brought under pricing regime" which appeared in the Economic Times of 3rd February, 1992.

(b) and (c) The entire Drug Policy including DPCO, 1987 is still under review of the Government.

(d) These bulk drugs are still under price control.

Per Capita Consumption of Chemical Fertilisers

1127. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the per capita consumption of chemical fertiliser in the country at present;

(b) whether during the last ten years the per capita consumption has been increased, and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to increase its production in the Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith details thereof ?